



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Bureau of Land Management  
National Park Service  
Bureau of Indian Affairs

# Kenai Peninsula Federal Subsistence Fishery Assessment Project



**Federal Subsistence Board**

September 27, 2002

## **Why does the Federal Subsistence Board need to assess subsistence fisheries in the Federal waters of the Kenai Peninsula?**

In 1999, when the Federal government expanded management of subsistence fisheries in Alaska to include navigable waters on Federal lands, it initially adopted the State's subsistence regulations. However, all streams on the Kenai Peninsula have been closed to subsistence fishing since the 1950s, therefore there were no regulations for the Board to adopt. In December 2001, the Board established subsistence fishery regulations for the Kenai Peninsula based on the State's sport fishing regulations. This is a temporary measure until information can be collected to determine customary and traditional uses and current subsistence needs for the Kenai Peninsula area. To collect this information, the Board approved funding for an assessment of subsistence fisheries in the Federal waters of the Kenai Peninsula and the west side of Cook Inlet, with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as lead investigator for the project.

## **What is the Fishery Assessment Project and what will it do?**

Investigators are using a combination of literature reviews, household surveys, interviews, and roundtable discussions with user groups to ascertain the locations of fishing in the past, gear types, harvest levels, methods of preservation, and other information needed to make determinations of customary and traditional use. Once the assessment project is completed, the Office of Subsistence Management technical staff will develop recommendations for the Board regarding customary and traditional use determinations and harvest regulations. The goal of the assessment project is to involve all affected user groups. Due to the unique circumstances surrounding the reintroduction of subsistence fisheries, the public is being provided an extended opportunity to discuss their issues and concerns before the Board develops the regulations.

## **Where are the Federal waters and what are the current regulations?**

The Federal waters of Cook Inlet area include waters within or adjacent to the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, Chugach National Forest, Tuxedni Subunit of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, and Lake Clark National Park. Federal subsistence fishing permits are required to take salmon, Dolly Varden, trout, or char for subsistence uses. Seasons, harvest and possession limits, and methods and means for the harvest of salmon, Dolly Varden, trout, and char are the same as under Alaska sport fishing regulations.

**For more information**, please contact Pat Petrivelli at the Office of Subsistence Management, (800) 478-1456 or (907) 786-3361 ([pat\\_petrivelli@fws.gov](mailto:pat_petrivelli@fws.gov)), or fax (907) 786-3898. TTY users may call through the Federal Relay Service, (800) 877-8339. Please visit our homepage at <http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/home.html>.